

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 063443
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY:NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

APPROVED BY:NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

-----081787 120148Z /15

O 120056Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 063443

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 3281 ACTION SECSTATE, DIA,
USCINCEUR AND BEIRUT MAR 11.

QUOTE: UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3281

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, IS, LE

SUBJECT: TERRORIST ATTACK IN CENTRAL ISRAEL

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 1430 ZULU, 11 MARCH, A GROUP OF
TERRORISTS REPORTEDLY LANDED FROM THE SEA, APPROXIMATELY
30 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF HAIFA. THE GROUP'S SIZE IS
TENTATIVELY ESTIMATED AT TEN OR MORE TERRORISTS. EXACT
NUMBER NOT DETERMINED.
2. THE TERRORISTS SEIZED ONE BUS REPORTEDLY
FILLED WITH WEEKEND TRAVEL EMPLOYEES OF THE EGGED BUS
COMPANY. A SECOND BUS, NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS UNDERTERMINED, WAS
ATTACKED AND ISRAELI CASUALTIES OCCURRED.
CASUALTIES FROM THAT BUS WERE EVACUATED TO HAIFA HOSPITALS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 063443

3. THE TERRORISTS MOVED SOUTH ON THE MAIN HAIFA-TEL
AVIV HIGHWAY IN THE BUS WHICH IS APPARENTLY THE ONE
OCCUPIED BY EGGED EMPLOYEES. THEY ENCOUNTERED ISRAELI
SECURITY ELEMENTS IN THE VICINITY OF THE TEL AVIV
COUNTRY CLUB, WHICH IS LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF
THE HAIFA HIGHWAY-JERUSALEM ROAD BYPASS. A GUN BATTLE

ENSUED, FOLLOWED BY A FIRE AND EXPLOSION ON THE BUS.
ADDITIONAL CASUALTIES OCCURRED AND HAVE BEEN EVACUATED
TO LOCAL TEL AVIV HOSPITALS.

4. AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF TERRORISTS HAVE SCATTERED IN
THE AREA WHICH IS NOW BEING SEALED OFF BY POLICE AND
ARMY TROOPS WHO ARE ENGAGED IN A SEARCH. AIR FORCE
ELEMENTS ARE ASSISTING WITH FLARES. ISRAELI AIR
FORCE HELICOPTERS HAVE APPARENTLY INSERTED
BLOCKING FORCES IN THE AREA.

5. ACCORDING TO RADIO ISRAEL, FATAH HAS CLAIMED
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK IN A STATEMENT ISSUED
IN BEIRUT.

6. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION AT THIS TIME IF ANY AMERICAN
CITIZENS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. WE ARE CANVASSING ALL
LOCAL HOSPITALS AND REMAINING IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH
AUTHORITIES.

7. JUST ADVISED BY IDF SOURCE (NOT CONFIRMED ELSE-
WHERE) THAT 20 PERSONS KILLED AND 70 WOUNDED IN BUS
ATTACKS AND SUBSEQUENT SHOOTOUT. "SOME" TERRORISTS
KILLED AND AT LEAST ONE CAPTURED ALIVE. VIETS
UNQUOTE VANCE

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